

AFRD ES&H Operations Committee
71 Conference Room
August 4, 2006
2:00 – 3:00 PM

Minutes

Attendees: Tom Caronna, Christine Celata, Sharon Hernandez, Daryl Horler, Tom McVeigh, Tom Scarvie, Peter Seidl, Pat Thomas, Csaba Toth, Weyland Wong

1. Program Safety Coordinator Status Reports

A series of problems with LBNL's safety program last year (ALS shielding incidents, MSD laser inspections, Bldg. 58 electrical incident, increased accident rate) led to problems with DOE. Ray Orbach wrote a letter to the UC regents saying Berkeley Lab had gone from the "poster child" to the "problem child" in safety. He proposed doing a "tiger team" type review. In response, Berkeley Lab organized a Peer Review of our ISM systems by representatives from similar labs. One of the findings was that communications about safety were reaching LBNL and division management but were not always getting down to workers and the postdocs who manage some labs. There were also concerns about how we control guests, users, and off-site work. LBNL developed a corrective action plan. DOE sent in a validation team that was very critical of the action plan. DOE has been doing some extensive safety audits at NNSA labs and is just starting to do them at Office of Science labs. LBNL is getting ready by bringing in a consulting firm, McCallum Turner, to do a review. This firm has done a lot of work at other DOE labs and has a good reputation. They will be coming to LBNL on August 8 for a scoping visit. We don't expect them to visit AFRD this time, but they may do some interviews at ALS. The audit team will return September 19-26 and we expect them to review all divisions at that time.

LBNL's accident rate is doing well this year; however, we should not be complacent. There has been a series of "near miss" and first aid incidents at AFRD that could have been more serious. The accident rate "goals" for LBNL next year will be very challenging and difficult to meet. Our safety committee can play an important role in communicating safety through the division. It is important for us to continue to improve our safety systems, including ensuring all employees and guests complete JHQs and required training, and CATS items are closed on schedule. That is why we are asking Program ES&H Coordinators to provide monthly status reports.

PUB-3000 says *"All personnel, including managers, staff, and participating visitors working at LBNL for more than three months, are required to complete the Job Hazards Questionnaire (JHQ) to identify pertinent training requirements. New personnel must complete the JHQ within the first month after starting work at LBNL. It is recommended that personnel on site for less than three months also*

complete the JHQ.” During our Division Review, AFRD was criticized for not having 100% completion of JHQs. Other DOE labs have had stricter requirements for completing JHQs than LBNL. In response, AFRD is making JHQ completion a requirement for Guest status.

There has also been some ambiguity about who is required to take EHS0010 Introduction to ES&H at LBNL. The JHQ identifies this course as a requirement for anyone who answers “yes” to question A1, “*Will you be working at LBNL on the main site, PGF, Donner, Calvin, Berkeley West Biosciences (977), 903, 937, 941 or 943 for more than 30 days?*” Does this mean 30 days for one visit, in a year, or over several years? Does it mean actual time on site or the total duration of the employee/guest status? Tom Caronna says EH&S interprets the “30 days” as the duration of the employee/guest status. The exception would be for people who never come to LBNL. Some Guests come with the intention of only going to a meeting, but then end up observing or participating in experiments. Everyone who is going to have AFRD Guest status for more than 30 days and will come on site should complete EHS0010. People who do not want to complete JHQs and required training can be brought in under Visitor passes and supervised.

2. ES&H News and Lessons Learned

Ground penetration near misses – There have been 3 incidents at LBNL recently where electrical conduits were penetrated during drilling or digging operations. No one has been injured, but these are warning signs that our program needs to be improved. The requirement now is that anyone who plans to penetrate the ground greater than 1 1/2 inches deep x 1/2 inch wide must first get a dig permit. This may not be adequate, because this is an old site and we are sometimes finding utilities closer to the surface. Scans can be requested for smaller penetrations where dig permits are not required. Another problem is that the ground-penetrating radar and other devices used to determine the location of conduit do not give definitive readings. If the planned dig site is close to a wall, the readings may not be accurate. We should question whether the hole could be dug in a different location with a greater margin of safety. We want to be confident we are always prescribing a safe practice and not taking chances. “Temporary” conditions often last longer than anticipated, so we should not take short cuts.

Topics for meetings – Ken Barat plans to come to the September meeting to talk about the laser safety program and other safety issues for which he is a subject matter expert, such as RF, microwaves, and magnetic fields. Peter Seidl suggested that we could have some demonstrations of EH&S databases at future meetings, such as the new AHD database. If you think of other topics you would like to hear more about at future meetings, please contact Pat Thomas.

3. Program Forum

At LOASIS, they will be doing maintenance work for the next two weeks. The new support area is almost complete and they are moving in. The first floor SAA will be moved from B cave to the new area.

IBT will have walkthroughs of Bldg. 5 and 16 next week. We will check open CATS and close out the ones that are complete.

At Fusion, the HCX seismic work will be finished in September. The seismic support work for the 58 mezzanine is almost complete. There will be a window replacement project during the next two weeks. The heater restraint should be completed this fiscal year. The roof of the corridor between 58 and 58A is still unstable. We don't know when the roof will be fixed. AFRD has requested new egress routes and signage for the 58 and 71 complexes, but it hasn't been done yet. Meanwhile, we should post signs in the corridor similar to the ones in the old 58A control room, warning people not to linger in the area. Engineering Division has requested that a "responsible person" be assigned for each room. This may be confusing where there are several different PIs in a room. Chris Celata wants to discuss this request with Engineering.

At CBP, the Fajans group has completed their experimental work in 58A. The remaining equipment will be either packed up and shipped to CERN, or stored until it can be moved back to UC campus.

Weyland Wong reported that an Engineering employee was stung by a wasp. Another employee accompanied the victim to Health Services. It is important to have someone go to Health Services with a person who has been stung because the victim could have an allergic reaction on the way.

Tom McVeigh noticed someone going through what appeared to be a breach in the fence behind Bldg. 71. Sharon Hernandez said that there is actually a gate in that location and a few people who live up the hill have keys so they can walk home. If you notice a hole in the fence and it is not an emergency, you can call 6274 or send an e-mail to wrc@lbl.gov to report it. If it is a security emergency, the EH&S website says to call 6999. An example was a recent incident where 5 adventurous juveniles emerged from a storm drain near Bldg. 46.

Next Meeting:

ES&H Operations Committee – September 1, 2006, 2:00 PM, Bldg. 71 Conference Room